

LABOR MARKET DIMENSIONS

A Monthly Report on the Dynamics of the Labor Market in Maryland

December, 1987

Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT

DIVISION OF LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION

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LABOR MARKET DIMENSIONS
DECEMBER, 1987

MARYLAND

UNEMPLOYMENT ADVANCES marginally

Jobseekers, encouraged by the normal increase in hiring activity occurring in selected job sectors during the holiday season, boosted the statewide labor force to a level of 2,416,104 in December, up from 2,404,916 in November. Maryland's labor market responded in kind, however, employment expansion was only sufficiently strong enough to absorb about 87.0 percent of December's labor force growth. As a result, the number of persons on the statewide jobless rolls increased by nearly 1,500 during December, causing the jobless rate to rise slightly from 4.1 percent to 4.2 percent. The increase in the jobless rate, which is relatively consistent with past years, matches this December's unemployment estimate with that of last year.

	December 1987	November 1987	December 1986
Civilian Labor Force	2,416,104	2,404,916	2,385,320
Total Employment	2,314,947	2,305,232	2,286,060
Total Unemployment	101,157	99,684	99,260
Unemployment Rate	4.2	4.1	4.2
National Civilian Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.6	6.3

The direction of labor market activity in Maryland during December contrasted sharply with the national forecast. Unemployment across the nation dropped by 0.2 percentage points to register 5.4 percent in December. Although the number of employed Americans declined over the month, an even greater drop in the pool of available workers reduced both the level and rate of national unemployment.

**NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLLS POST
FOURTH STRAIGHT MONTHLY INCREASE**

Maryland's nonagricultural payrolls advanced by an estimated 5,900 jobs in December, representing the fourth straight monthly rise in industrial employment. The recent pace of employment expansion, although lagging slightly behind that of last year, moved industrial employment to a record high level of 2,011,900.

RETAIL TRADE DOMINATES THE JOB FORECAST

Nonmanufacturing jobs, at a level of 1,798,300 in November, rose by 5,700 in December. The most significant employment gains resulted from seasonal hiring in the state's retail trade establishments, particularly in general merchandise stores, apparel stores, and home furnishing outlets. Job increases in retail trade alone accounted for nearly 93.0 percent of the overall rise in nonmanufacturing payrolls. Job gains in retail trade, augmented by increased hiring activity in personal and health services, defense installations, and local government agencies, helped to neutralize seasonal downswings in hotels, agricultural services, and construction.

MARYLAND
NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)

DECEMBER 1987

Major Industry Grouping	December 1987	November 1987	December 1986
Total Nonagricultural Employment	2011.9	2006.0	1998.6
Manufacturing	207.9	207.6	209.1
Durable Goods	108.5	108.4	109.6
Nondurable Goods	99.4	99.3	99.5
Nonmanufacturing	1804.0	1798.3	1789.5
Mining	1.7	1.7	1.7
Construction	143.7	144.3	143.9
Transportation & Public Utilities	94.5	94.3	93.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade	524.2	518.8	517.6
Wholesale Trade	113.5	113.5	110.0
Retail Trade	410.7	405.4	407.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	121.3	121.2	120.1
Services	525.7	525.5	513.3
Total Government	393.0	392.5	399.8
Federal	127.0	126.7	133.4
State	91.1	91.2	93.3
Local	174.9	174.6	173.1

The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Additional industry detail available upon request.
Current data preliminary; previous month revised.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

REGIONAL ECONOMICS

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA

In the Baltimore Metropolitan Area, an increase of 3,748 in the number of unemployed residents caused the December jobless rate to move to 4.8 percent, up from 4.5 percent in November. The increase in the Metropolitan Area's jobless estimates occurred despite a gain of 4,805 in the number of workers recorded between November and December. All of the Metropolitan Area's local jurisdictions experienced increased unemployment with the exception of Howard County where the jobless estimate held steady at 2.4 percent. Baltimore City was positioned at the higher end of the spectrum with 7.4 percent of the city's available labor pool on the jobless rolls during December. The largest unemployment increase occurred in Queen Anne's County where layoffs in food processing and outdoor related activities dampened the employment picture and contributed to a rise in the county's jobless rate from 2.8 percent to 3.5 percent. In general, industrial activity in the BMA followed the expected seasonal norm, with job gains foremost in retail trade and declines centered primarily in the region's construction sector.

MARYLAND'S D.C. SUBURBS

The economic scenario was quite different in the D.C. Metropolitan Area. In December, residential employment in the region surged ahead by 7,057 to reach an all-time high of 931,338. More importantly, as the employment count expanded, the number of unemployed suburbanites declined by nearly 2,100. Reacting to this reduction in unemployment volume, the D.C. Area's jobless rate dropped from 3.0 percent to 2.7 percent. Within the region, jobless rates in December ranged from a low of 2.2 percent in Montgomery to a high of 4.1 percent in Calvert. The region's job market was bolstered by increased hiring activity in all of its major industrial sectors, with the exception of construction. Job gains were strongest in general merchandise/apparel stores, trucking, eating/drinking establishments, and furniture retailers.

WESTERN MARYLAND

In Western Maryland, the withdrawal of more than 600 workers from the job market was the primary factor in reducing the region's jobless rate from 8.2 percent to 8.1 percent. Garrett County, the only western county where labor force expansion occurred, added more than 200 people to their jobless rolls. With this increase, the county's unemployment rate escalated from 8.3 percent to 10.2 percent. Throughout the region, sporadic layoffs, particularly in the construction and services sectors, contributed to an overall decline of 400 jobs in nonagricultural employment.

BALANCE OF STATE

In the Balance of State Area, unemployment held steady at 5.8 percent in December. Despite this seemingly stable picture, overall employment in the region dropped by 1,710 persons--a decline which was masked by the withdrawal of these workers from the labor force. Some noticeable seasonal fluctuations, however, did surface in the counties comprising the area. The seasonal downswing in outdoor activities was particularly noticeable in Worcester County where the jobless rate climbed to 11.3 percent in December, up from November's 10.0 percent.

NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY - BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)
BY REGION--DECEMBER 1987

Major Industry Grouping	Baltimore Metropolitan Area		Maryland Portion D.C. Suburbs		Western Maryland		Balance of State	
	Dec. 1987	Nov.1987	Dec. 1987	Nov.1987	Dec. 1987	Nov.1987	Dec. 1987	Nov.1987
Total Nonagricultural Employment	1080.1	1078.1	727.2	721.5	83.2	83.6	127.5	128.5
Manufacturing	132.4	131.8	36.0	35.7	15.9	15.8	23.4	23.5
Durable Goods	72.7	72.5	19.9	19.7	-	-	-	-
Nondurable Goods	59.7	59.3	16.1	16.0	-	-	-	-
Nonmanufacturing	947.7	946.4	691.2	685.7	67.3	67.8	104.2	105.0
Construction	68.6	69.8	61.1	61.9	4.7	5.3	8.7	9.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	55.1	55.6	27.4	26.7	5.0	5.0	7.1	7.1
Wholesale and Retail Trade	269.8	267.6	201.8	197.5	22.8	22.7	33.5	33.8
Wholesale Trade	65.5	65.6	37.7	37.7	-	-	-	-
Retail Trade	204.3	202.0	164.1	159.8	-	-	-	-
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	74.5	74.5	40.2	40.2	2.9	3.0	4.8	4.9
Services and Mining	272.4	271.8	204.3	203.8	17.5	17.7	27.0	27.0
Total Government	207.3	207.0	156.4	155.6	14.3	14.3	23.0	23.2
Federal	52.9	52.9	69.8	69.5	1.8	1.8	6.4	6.4
State	65.2	64.8	20.7	20.8	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.5
Local	89.2	89.3	65.9	65.3	8.2	8.2	12.2	12.3

The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

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STATE OF MARYLAND
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

DECEMBER, 1987

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	DECEMBER	NOVEMBER*	DECEMBER	NOVEMBER*	DECEMBER	NOVEMBER*	DECEMBER	NOVEMBER*	DECEMBER '86
MARYLAND	2,416,104	2,404,916	2,314,947	2,305,232	101,157	99,684	4.2	4.1	4.2
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	1,166,965	1,158,412	1,111,233	1,106,428	55,732	51,984	4.8	4.5	4.8
BALTIMORE CITY	348,059	344,488	322,250	320,857	25,809	23,631	7.4	6.9	7.5
ANNE ARUNDEL	205,573	204,194	198,832	197,972	6,741	6,222	3.3	3.0	3.2
BALTIMORE	384,699	382,512	369,185	367,588	15,514	14,924	4.0	3.9	4.0
CARROLL	57,547	57,185	55,640	55,399	1,907	1,786	3.3	3.1	3.9
HARFORD	74,982	74,461	71,704	71,393	3,278	3,068	4.4	4.1	4.3
HOWARD	81,766	81,393	79,783	79,438	1,983	1,955	2.4	2.4	2.2
QUEEN ANNE'S	14,339	14,179	13,840	13,781	499	398	3.5	2.8	3.2
D. C. AREA	957,544	952,548	931,338	924,281	26,206	28,267	2.7	3.0	2.7
CALVERT	20,607	20,482	19,763	19,613	844	869	4.1	4.2	3.8
CHARLES	43,650	43,400	42,334	42,013	1,316	1,387	3.0	3.2	2.5
FREDERICK	71,799	71,262	69,737	69,209	2,062	2,053	2.9	2.9	3.1
MONTGOMERY	402,416	400,219	393,442	390,461	8,974	9,758	2.2	2.4	2.1
PRINCE GEORGE'S	419,071	417,185	406,061	402,984	13,010	14,201	3.1	3.4	3.0
WESTERN MARYLAND	99,009	99,629	91,010	91,447	7,999	8,182	8.1	8.2	7.5
ALLEGANY	32,822	33,104	29,551	29,646	3,271	3,458	10.0	10.4	8.7
GARRETT	11,914	11,812	10,700	10,829	1,214	983	10.2	8.3	10.5
WASHINGTON	54,273	54,713	50,759	50,972	3,514	3,741	6.5	6.8	6.1
BALANCE OF STATE	192,587	194,328	181,367	183,077	11,220	11,251	5.8	5.8	6.0
CAROLINE	13,071	13,033	12,332	12,458	739	575	5.7	4.4	5.1
CECIL	33,273	33,268	31,656	31,397	1,617	1,871	4.9	5.6	6.6
DORCHESTER	16,533	17,023	15,547	15,911	986	1,112	6.0	6.5	7.0
KENT	8,717	9,047	8,269	8,624	448	423	5.1	4.7	4.2
ST. MARY'S	35,449	35,330	33,942	33,773	1,507	1,557	4.3	4.4	3.3
SOMERSET	10,853	11,339	9,776	10,143	1,077	1,196	9.9	10.5	11.4
TALBOT	16,298	16,396	15,638	15,878	660	518	4.0	3.2	3.6
WICOMICO	40,740	40,595	38,553	38,433	2,187	2,162	5.4	5.3	5.2
WORCESTER	17,653	18,297	15,654	16,460	1,999	1,837	11.3	10.0	11.8
¹ UNITED STATES	120,206,000	120,611,000	113,679,000	113,809,000	6,526,000	6,802,000	5.4	5.6	6.3

*Estimates for the state are revised.

¹

Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

NOTE: Figures may not add due to rounding. These are estimates relating to the week of the 12th of each month. The count is of persons not jobs. All data are not seasonally adjusted.